



## Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Public Affairs

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Scenic Byway projects awarded federal funding**

*River Road and Bluegrass, Blues & BBQ Scenic Byways to see improvements*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 26, 2009) — The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has announced nearly \$350,000 in federal funding for scenic byway improvements, including funding for right of way acquisition and new visual and audio media opportunities.

The River Road Scenic Byway project, in Jefferson County, will receive \$250,000 for acquisition of right of way from Glenview Avenue to Harrods Creek. The scenic byway segment of River Road stretches seven miles from Zorn Avenue to an intersection with US 42 in Prospect. The project will enhance safety along River Road Scenic Byway Corridor through the addition of future bicycle facilities.

Also benefiting will be the 283-mile Bluegrass, Blues and BBQ Scenic Byway, which threads through nine western Kentucky counties – Hancock, Daviess, Henderson, Union, Webster, McLean, Muhlenberg, Hopkins and Ohio.

The corridor will receive \$97,000 in federal funds for audiovisual interpretive media. Travelers can learn about the byway's historical significance by pod-cast, DVD, CD and a Web site. Local artists will provide historical interpretation through music to complement selected points of interests. Maps, music, narration, and photo galleries will also be available. Materials will be available at locations along the corridor.

“River Road and the Bluegrass, Blues and BBQ Scenic Byways are a unique part of our commonwealth,” Gov. Steve Beshear said. “This is an opportunity to protect a natural scenic resource, promote tourism, foster associated economic development and maximize the potential of some of our less-traveled roads.”

Both routes were designated Kentucky Scenic Byways – meaning they have scenic, natural, cultural, historical, archaeological and/or recreational value worthy of preservation, restoration, protection and enhancement.

Transportation Secretary Joe Prather said the federal funding demonstrates the

importance of the historic and cultural significance of the two routes. “This will allow for safety improvements and new opportunities to experience the rich heritages,” he said.

There are 32 designated Kentucky Scenic Byways/Highways, three of which are also National Scenic Byways – the Wilderness Road Heritage Highway, the Country Music Highway and the Red River Gorge Scenic Byway.

Information is available at [www. http://tea21.ky.gov/scenic/Scenic\\_Byways\\_Home.htm](http://tea21.ky.gov/scenic/Scenic_Byways_Home.htm).

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